



# Nordkapen

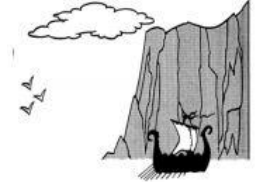
Nordkap Lodge 5-378 - Sons of Norway

The North Cape 71° 10' 21" North Latitude – The Top of Europe

A Congenial Society of Sons, Daughters and Friends of Norway

Organized August 10, 1929 – The first Sons of Norway Lodge in Michigan

<http://www.DetroitNorwegians.com>



February-March 2022

Volume 92 Issue 2

## NORDKAP CALENDAR

**Saturday, Feb. 19 – Family Outing, Cross-Country Skiing, 10 a.m.-noon at Huron Meadows Metropark, Brighton, Michigan**

**Sunday, March 20 –Lefse Demo, 2-5 p.m., at the Swedish Club, Farmington Hills, Michigan**

**Sunday, March 27, April 24, and March 15 at 7 p.m., Nordkap Book Club on Zoom**

### Nordkap 2020 Officers

**President:** Erik Duus

**Vice President:** Haley Vingsness

**Treasurer & Scholarship Chair:**  
Carmen Collins

**Secretary:** Mary Morehead

**Membership Secretary**

**& Sunshine Director:** Carol Jehle

**Social Director & Greeter:**

Eli Viik Steyskal

**Co-Cultural Directors:**

Karen Herche & Magda Pecsénye

**Sports Director:** Cathy Johnson

**Co-Youth Directors:**

Yana Thompson & David Thompson

**Foundation Director:**

Derrick Hendricks

**Co-Store Directors:**

Natalie Vaal & Dennis Flessland

**Editor & Publicity Director:**

Louise Giles

**Counselor:** Bob Giles

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[Nordkap@DetroitNorwegians.com](mailto:Nordkap@DetroitNorwegians.com)

**Photos by Bob Giles,  
unless otherwise indicated**

Stay Connected on Facebook at  
Norwegians in Michigan

[https://www.facebook.com/groups/  
104416144749/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/104416144749/)

Call and leave a message at:

248-919-8355

## ***We're Reconnecting with our Nordkap Members in 2022!***

**Check out these events planned to return us closer to traditional lodge gatherings:**

- **Hosting a family outing and cross-country skiing.** See page 3
- **Holding a lefse baking demo and fundraiser.** See page 4
- **Starting a Nordkap Book Club** to read Norwegian and Norwegian-American authors. See page 5.
- **Sending delegates to the 5<sup>th</sup> District convention.** See page 7.

### **Later this year, we'll have plans to:**

- Hike again with Nordkap friends in our beautiful parks
- Celebrate Constitution Day, perhaps with a picnic in May
- Mark the coming of Midsummer with a bonfire in June
- Offer special items for sale for the holidays in November
- Honor Norwegian customs at the December Christmas party

**We'll still use Zoom gatherings when that makes sense. But the hope is to spend more time together, on our feet, living in the free open air, like the Norwegian idea of *friluftsliv*.**



**GRATULERER  
MED DAGEN!**



**February Birthdays:**

Kristine Dowhan, Kevin Duffy, Bill Edwards, Mark Eelnurme, Dennis Flessland, Janet Flessland, Louise Giles, Sven Hahr, Emma Jehle, Cynthia Keech, Steven Keech, Judith Kirsch, Erik Lundberg, David Nelsen, Magda Pecsénye, Arthur Peterson, Yana Thompson

**March Birthdays:**

Miriam Amundsen, Annika Eelnurme, Harald Ehrenfeld, Robert French, Lilje Gronstad, Sonja Gronstad, Tim Miller, Barry Rabe, Linda Radwan, Dana Runestad, Avery Jean Skidmore, Phyllis Skora, Sarah Stalmack, Hannah Thomassen, Jenna Thomassen, Berit Willet

***Sunshine Updates***

Nordkap Recreation Director **Cathy Johnson** was profiled in the winter issue of *Habitat*, the magazine of the Detroit Zoological Society. Cathy was spotlighted as a member of the zoo's Wildlife Legacy Circle, recognizing those who've included the Detroit Zoological Society in their estate plans.

Cathy said she remembers generations of her relatives enjoying the zoo since 1939 and chose to include the zoo in her estate planning because "I value conservation, animal welfare, and education."

\* \* \*

Nordkap member **Sheryl Dalton** is recovering from recent surgery to repair a rotator cuff tear.

\* \* \*

Nordkap member **Monica Dowhan** was one of eight former Ford Motor Company employees who recently accepted a settlement in their age discrimination lawsuit against Ford.

The lawsuit claimed that, in an attempt to slash costs and impress Wall Street, Ford fired salaried workers with flawless performance records who had been promoted, rewarded, and cited for excellence but were then deemed expendable because of their age and proximity to key retirement milestones. In the settlement, Ford did not admit to any wrongdoing, and the amount of money involved was not revealed.

\* \* \*

We sadly report the passing of **Susan Rokicki**, a founding member of the Sons of Norway's Ulseth Lodge 5-670 in Calumet in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Susan and her partner Joseph Mihal were the driving force in the ongoing restoration of the historic Norwegian Lutheran Church in Calumet.

The church restoration was the subject of her keynote address at Nordkap's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner at Schoolcraft College in 2004. After Susan's talk, Nordkap passed an empty paint can to collect donations for the restoration.



*Susan Rokicki  
(family photo)*



## **Enjoy a Day of ‘friluftsliv’ and Cross-Country Skiing February 19**

**There’s a folk myth** that Norwegians are virtually born with skis on. You almost believe it when you see the team march and compete at the Winter Olympics.

Put that myth to the test yourself on Saturday, February 19, when Nordkap meets for cross-country skiing at Huron Meadows Metropark in Brighton.

**Whether or not you ski that day, you’ll enjoy a stimulating time outside** and embrace the Nordic concept of *friluftsliv* (*free-loofts-leave*). Roughly translated as “life in the free air,” the idea is to immerse yourself in nature, resulting in benefits to mind, body and spirit. For skiers and non-skiers alike, there’s an outside warming area to enjoy and a concession stand (even with adult beverages) at the Ski Center.

**If you do want to ski and need a little instruction, Nordkap’s Co-Youth Director David Thompson will be on hand at the Ski Center between 10 a.m. and noon to help. That would be the best time for Nordkap members to gather together. Stay as long as you like. The park is open for skiing that day from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.**

Huron Meadows offers miles of groomed trails for skiers. Not enough snow? You can buy a \$5 pass and ski on Bucks Run, the park’s 1.5-mile loop refreshed with snow guns.

You’ll need a \$10 daily vehicle pass to enter the park. Bring your own ski equipment if you have it, otherwise ski rentals are available at the Ski Center at \$15 for adults and \$9 for youths under 16.

For rentals, you must reserve in advance, no more than five days before the event. The Ski Center will hand out equipment for only six rentals each half hour, due to Covid precautions.

To reserve, call (810) 231-4084 or reserve online. For more information, see [https://www.metroparks.com/huron-meadows-metropark/#cross-country\\_skiing](https://www.metroparks.com/huron-meadows-metropark/#cross-country_skiing)

Huron Meadows Metropark is located at 8765 Hammel Road, Brighton, MI 48116.



***Daddy-daughter skiing:***

***Co-Youth Directors David and Yana Thompson (David’s photos above & below)***



***Looking glamorous after skiing all day:***

***The Thompson women, left to right, Kalina, Yana, & Margarita***



***You're Invited Out to a Lefse-Making Fundraiser  
and Installation of our 2022 Nordkap Officers***



**Sunday, March 20, 2022**

**Time: 2 to 5 p.m.**

**Location: The Swedish Club**

**22398 Ruth St, Farmington Hills, MI 48336**

***--Story and Photo by Nordkap Secretary Mary Morehead***

Mary Morehead, Magda Pecsénye, Eli Steyskal, and Dee and Roy Marvel will be demonstrating how to make lefse at the Swedish Club on Sunday, March 20. Everyone is invited—no baking expertise required.

**A \$10 donation to benefit the Nordkap Scholarship Fund is requested for attendance.**

After the demonstration, members will be welcome to roll and cook a few lefse themselves and to help themselves to some samples. Larger quantities of Mary's homemade lefse and store-bought lefse will be on sale. All proceeds from donations and sales will be donated to our Nordkap Scholarship Fund.

Dinner will not be served on this day, but coffee, tea, and some light refreshments will be available.

This event replaces our normal Bowling Scholarship Fundraiser in March, due to ongoing concerns about COVID-19.

**Nordkap will also use the occasion to formally install its new officers for 2022.**

Please mark your calendar and join us to reconnect with Nordkap Lodge members, congratulate the new officers, and enjoy the lefse and the demo.

***Happy Anniversary to Nordkap...no, not us!***

Did you know there was another Nordkap Lodge in the Sons of Norway? Yes, there is!

The other Nordkap is in Baltimore, Maryland, part of District 3. Our lodge is in the 5<sup>th</sup> District Sons of Norway. The Baltimore Nordkap comes to light because it is celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. Congratulations to them!

Our Detroit Nordkap, founded in 1929, will be just 93 years old in August.

Also here in Michigan, the Sognefjord Lodge 5-523 in Muskegon will be celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary on December 10. Best wishes to Sognefjord!

## **Join Magda on Zoom March 17 at 7 p.m. for the Nordkap Book Club**

**--By Magda Pecsénye, Nordkap Co-Cultural Director**

You're invited to the Nordkap Book Club. Reading is a core Norwegian activity and is perfect for the colder months. Let's read (or listen to the audiobook) one book each month in March, April, and May, and we'll earn our first Norwegian Literature Cultural Skills pin.

Book club discussions will be on Zoom, at 7 p.m. for about an hour or so. (If you read but can't come to the discussion, you can still earn the pin.) It would help me to know who is joining, so if you plan to do so or have any questions, please contact me at [magda.pecsenye@gmail.com](mailto:magda.pecsenye@gmail.com)

### **Meeting link for all meetings:**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87383466491>

Meeting ID: 873 8346 6491

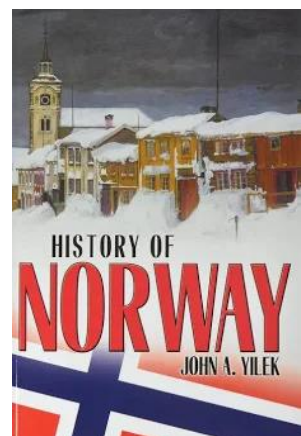
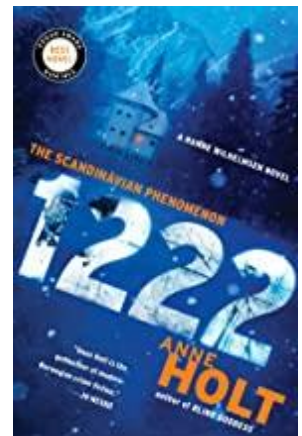
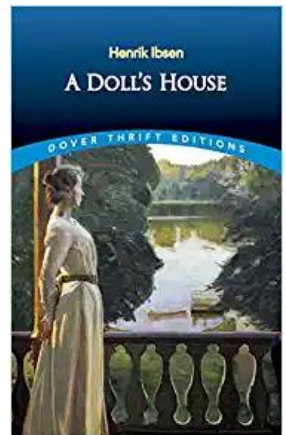
### **Here's the schedule:**

**March 27, 7 pm:** *A Doll's House* by Henrik Ibsen. A classic of Norwegian theater, this is a very intense but short play. Be ready to talk about cultural expectations of the time and what Ibsen could and couldn't say.

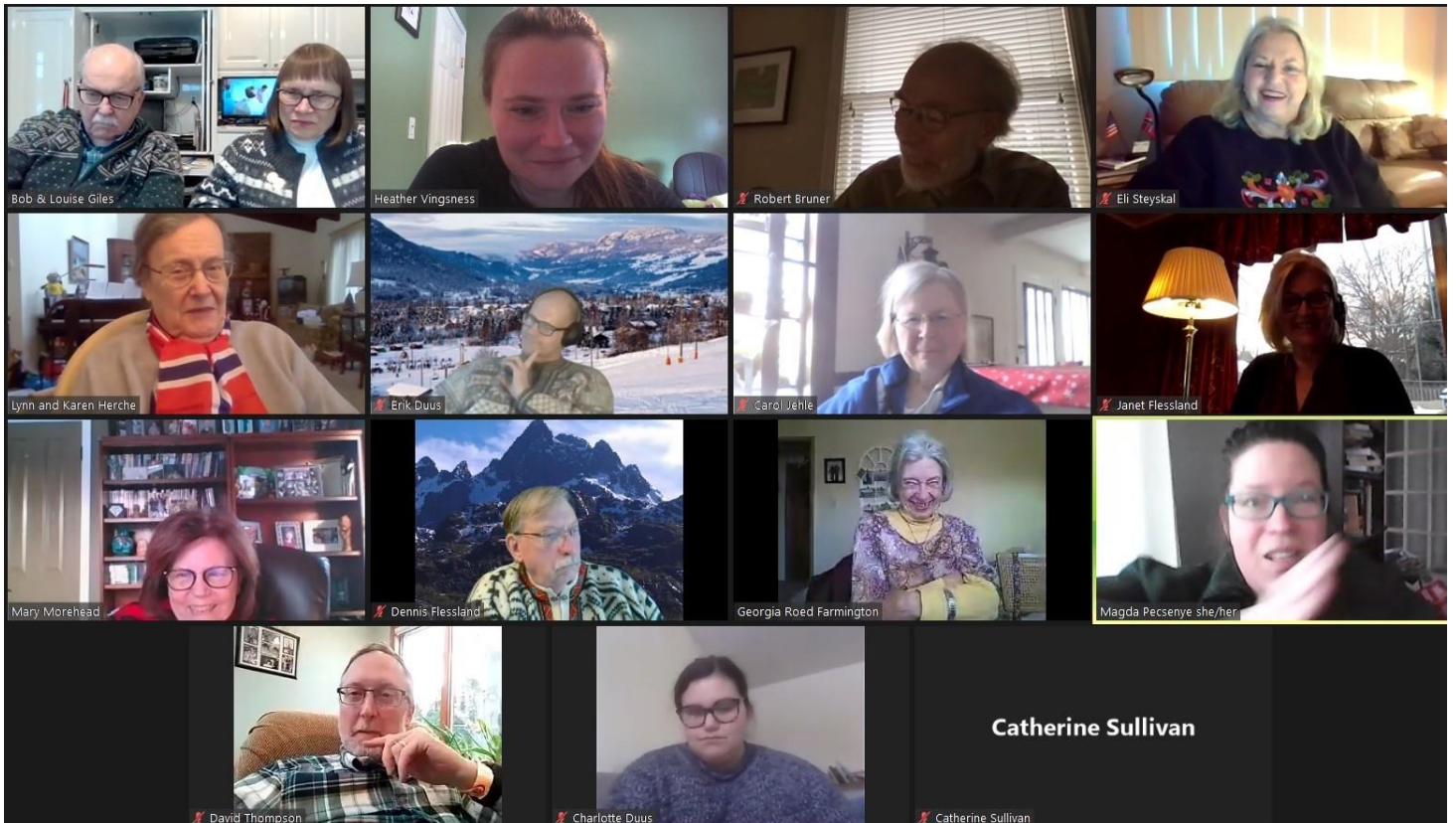
**April 24, 7 pm:** *1222* by Anne Holt. For the last 100 years, Norwegians have read Páskekrim, true crime novels over Easter vacation. Read about it here: <https://www.lifeinnorway.net/easter-crime/> We'll read *1222*, a murder novel that takes place in a hotel, written by Anne Holt, former Norwegian minister of justice.

**May 15, 7 pm:** *History of Norway* by John A. Yilek. In time for Syttende Mai, we'll read this excellent history of Norway published in 2018.

All the books or audiobooks can be easily ordered on Amazon at <https://www.amazon.com/>.



## *Members Share Stories and Laughs at January Happy Hour*



**We compared drinks, shared family stories, offered shopping tips, and enjoyed some laughs at Nordkap's virtual Happy Hour on January 30.**

**Heather Vingsness** again hosted our Zoom video conference where members showed off pets and gnomes and generally caught up with each other after the holidays.

The drinks consumed at home ranged from Labatt's Blue and organic wine to iced tea, a non-alcoholic IPA, Voss water, and hot chocolate.

**President Erik Duus** shared his experience as a dad dealing with his daughters' first boyfriends. **Magda Pecsénye** got a big reaction talking about her young son's licking the floor of a car of a New York subway years ago (see how members reacted to this in Heather's photo, above). Magda said her son survived with no apparent ill effects.

New member **Catherine Sullivan** reported that the Meijer specialty store at Woodward Corners (13 Mile and Woodward) has a helpful selection of Norwegian items in their international food department. **David Thompson** said he found Finnish licorice at the Finnish Center's Scandinavian Market in November.

Many said they looked forward to when our lodge can hold regular meetings again.

## ***Delegates Elected to 5<sup>th</sup> District Convention in Wisconsin***

Nordkap's Happy Hour on Zoom was also the occasion to elect our delegates and alternates for the 5<sup>th</sup> District Sons of Norway convention in June.

**The four delegates elected** to represent our lodge are: Dennis Flessland, Karen Herche, Phyllis Skora, and Magda Pecsénye. Nordkap provides each delegate a stipend of \$800 that helps cover travel, lodging, and other costs but does not reimburse all expenses.

**Elected as alternates** in the event one or more delegates cannot attend are: Geir Gronstad, Jan Flessland, and Erik Duus.

Congratulations to our delegates and alternates!

The District Convention is Wednesday, June 15, through Sunday, June 19, in Middleton, Wisconsin, a suburb of the state capital of Madison.

### ***What are the duties of a delegate?***

- Pay any expenses not covered by Nordkap's \$800 stipend
- Serve on a committee if asked by District President Andy Johnsen, which would require attending committee meetings on Thursday morning and afternoon (or until committee work is done and the committee is dismissed)
- Attend the opening ceremonies and first official business and seating of the delegates on Friday morning and be present in all sessions Friday and Saturday
- Attend the Zone 6 meeting Saturday noon to represent, speak, and vote on behalf of Nordkap Lodge
- Accept any awards or recognition given to Nordkap Lodge
- Learn about Sons of Norway by attending workshops, visiting displays, and visiting with other members (see the conference schedule at [https://sonsofnorway5.com/conventions/convention\\_events.php](https://sonsofnorway5.com/conventions/convention_events.php) )
- Bring back many ideas, activities, and enthusiasm to benefit our lodge
- Report back to Nordkap about what was learned, the business conducted, and elections held at the convention
- Have a wonderful time and go home ready to carry out the mission of Sons of Norway!

**Any Nordkap member who isn't a delegate but still wants to attend the convention can do so simply as a self-paying attendee.**

Attendees may observe the convention and take part in activities, classes, and presentations available for all. There will be an optional outing, cultural displays, delicious food, and a banquet with entertainment.



## ***A Letter from President Erik Duus:***

**It's beginning to look at lot like Norway...**Northern Norway at least. This week I found myself getting all excited for this season's first BIG "snowstorm," with projected snowfall of 11-15 inches. Now I know some of you were very relieved that we didn't get the foot of snow we all prepared for (Kroger hasn't had whipped cream in days!), but the Duus family was a little disappointed because we LOVE the snow. We say, "If it's going to be cold, let there be snow!" Some of our best family memories were made in the snow: from building a snowman in our front yard (so everyone could see it), to sledding at "Vernier Hill," to entering the chili cook-off at our town's Winter Fest, we *always* try to have fun as a family when it snows. I have "min mor" (my mother) to thank for instilling in me a love for winter and skiing.

**I know I "married up," but Kristin is also French Canadian...**and her family tree embraces winter too, albeit with more ice skating and hockey. Kristin grew up in St. Clair Shores, Michigan (a.k.a. "Hockeytown, USA"), just a couple blocks away from Lake St. Clair and the canals that lead into it (she just showed me a picture on Facebook of two adorable boys on miniature ice skates – probably 2 or 3 years old – "playing hockey" on one of those frozen-over canals). Kristin said that growing up (i.e. in the 70's and 80's) EVERYONE skated: the girls took figure skating, and the boys played hockey. She credits much of the "hockey inspiration" at the time with the neighborhood Gordie Howe's "Hockeyland" Ice Arena, and the fact that Olympic Gold Medalist Mark Wells – from the 1980 "Miracle on Ice" Team – hailed from St. Clair Shores.

Can you tell by now I/we like a snowy winter? So when I heard yesterday that where we live we only got about 5.5 inches over those two days this week, I was a bit bummed ☹. But then I saw next week's weather forecast (of "highs") across Norway (°F/°C): Stavanger (43°/6°), Oslo (43°/6°), Bergen (41°/5°), Trondheim (36°/2°), and Tromsø (32°/0°)...and I felt a bit better ☺ (*I know, I know...I'm working on not being "snow jealous" as a New Year's resolution*).

**I feel a little like Samson in the Bible...**about to confess the "weakness of my strength" (no, not my long flowing hair), because for the first time in my life I am not able to ski this winter (downhill or cross-country). You see, I tore the rotator cuff in my left shoulder and will likely need to have it repaired surgically. So all my thinking (or overthinking) about snowfall, temperature, or ski conditions has really been more about me realizing that it's all out of my control and that I need to find other things to do this winter in God's creation. *JUST IN...Because I shared with Kristin some of this letter to you, she decided to spill the beans and tell me about the "surprise date" she has planned for next Valentine's Day weekend; she rented snowshoes for us so we can get out and still enjoy the snow together, in spite of me not being able to ski this season (I know...I'm blessed).*

**During these past two years of COVID-19,** most of us have spent way too much time indoors, isolated from other people, and oftentimes staring at some sort of "screen." So as the pandemic becomes more of an endemic, I hope you, too, will embrace this year, this winter, and this day like a Norwegian..."inside-out." Remember, this is the season of "hygge," "friluftsliv," and "koselig!"

**Med vennlig hilsen (with best regards),  
Erik Duus**

*(Continued next page)*



*(President's letter continued from previous page)*

**PS** – I admit I have mixed feelings about the 2022 Winter Olympics being held in Beijing, China. On the one hand, I want to watch and support both the American and Norwegian athletes, but on the other, I just can't forget the Chinese Communist Party's mortifying human rights abuses (i.e. the imprisoned, and worse, Uyghur population, Hong Kong, Taiwan, coronavirus, etc.).

*SO...you remember that the 1994 Winter Olympics were held in Lillehammer, Norway, right? Well, that was right around the time when I first met Kristin. Because I wasn't able to sit myself down long enough to watch anything but "her," I ended up recording pretty much the entire Olympics on many VHS cassettes. Well, this is the year I will finally watch the 1994 Winter Olympics – I am so excited...now, I just need to find those video tapes and a VCR that still works!*

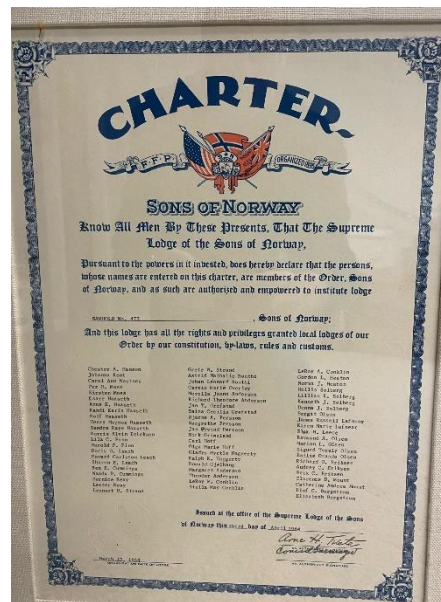
### ***Samhold Lodge Records Preserved at U. of M.'s Bentley Library***

Many historical documents of the former Samhold Lodge 5-473 will be preserved at the University of Michigan's Bentley Historical Library in Ann Arbor, Michigan. (That's where Nordkap's are kept.)

Samhold records were left to the care of Bill Injerd, the last president of Samhold, when Samhold merged with Nordkap Lodge on January 1, 2020. Bill recently took steps to preserve those records, including the original Samhold charter dated April 3, 1964.

On January 30th of this year, at his home in Washington, Michigan, he handed off seven boxes of Samhold historical documents to Michelle McClellan, the Johanna Meijer Maggoon Principal Archivist at the Bentley library.

Bill notes that digital files he's been creating will be forthcoming to the library via a shared cloud link.



***Bill Injerd presents Samhold's charter, listing Karen Marie Lafnear and 64 other original charter members, to Bentley Library archivist, Michelle McClellan.***

## ***Norway's Magnus Carlsen Wins 5th World Chess Championship***

***--By Kathie Injerd***

Thirty-one-year-old Magnus Carlsen of Norway has been ranked No.1 in classical chess since July 1, 2011. He recently won his fifth FIDE World Chess Championship.

The most recent tournament was held November 24 through December 12, 2021, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. His challenger was grandmaster Ian Nepomniachtchi of the Chess Federation of Russia. The final score was 7.5-3.5 in favor of Carlsen, who won 1.2 million euros along with retaining his title.

With the exception of Garry Kasparov, Magnus is the longest reigning World Chess Champion. He first earned the title by winning against Viswanathan Anand of India on Nov. 22, 2013.

After the 2021 match, Carlsen announced that "Unless Firouzja wins the Candidates Tournament, it is unlikely that I will play the next world championship match." This would seem to indicate that Magnus wants to select his next opponent. Alireza Firouzja is an 18-year-old Iranian-born grandmaster. As of December 1, 2021, Firouzja holds the No. 2 position in the FIDE world chess rankings and has already broken some of the records set by Magnus himself.



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